

### ETHICS REFORM TASK FORCE DISSOLVED

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I was shocked to learn that Speaker GINGRICH had suddenly dissolved the ethics task force, and this Tuesday night massacre I hope does not effectively end bipartisan ethics reform.

After 4 months of work, a bipartisan task force voted 11 to 1 in support of an ethics reform package, but none of us will ever see the fruits of their labor, just hours before it issued its report. While the task force reviewed the rules and made its recommendations, both Democrats and Republicans agreed to a 6-month moratorium on all ethics complaints.

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Now it appears that the entire process was merely a political device to shield Members from ethics complaints and to delay investigations. Speaker GINGRICH is the last person who should be thwarting ethics reform. He should not have the final word on this. He should allow the task force to issue its report, and allow the House to vote on this bipartisan reform proposal.

### AMERICANS DESERVE A TAX BREAK TODAY

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

MR. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, we are all familiar with the advertising phrase "You deserve a break today." Americans deserve a tax break today. It has been 16 years since Americans have had any tax relief. In fact, we have suffered through the two largest tax increases in history in just the last half decade. Working families deserve a tax break, \$500 per child tax relief, reduction in capital gains, reduction in death taxes, credits for investing in college. It all boils down to more freedom. It includes more control of your money, and it means stoking our economy, making more money available for investments. That means more jobs.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, America does deserve a tax break today.

### THE REPUBLICAN COMPANY STORE

(Mr. KLINK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, in the last Congress we had a debate about minimum wage. There were many people in the Republican leadership that got up and took the well and said that they were opposed to increasing the minimum wage. It caused me at that point to muse that somewhere between Abraham Lincoln and NEWT GINGRICH the

Republican Party had changed its opinion of slavery.

Eventually we decided in a bipartisan fashion to give America's lowest paid workers a raise. We increased the minimum wage. Now as we are in the process of getting some 1 million people from welfare into workfare by a time certain, the Republicans have changed their mind again. They have decided that slave labor guaranteed by the Federal Government is all right, that those people that we are moving from welfare to workfare should not be paid a minimum wage.

We are time-limiting their welfare benefits, forcing them into the work force but not guaranteeing them a minimum wage. Thus we are trapping those same people economically. This really is a Republican version of the old company store, when at the end of the year the workers owed the company store more than they had paid; so what we are telling these people is: At the end of the year, you will owe us for the benefit we gave you of being able to work.

To the Republicans I say, "Get real."

### URGING MEMBERS NOT TO WASTE THEIR VOTE ON H.R. 1270

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I have been in this well many times to discuss the facts surrounding the nuclear waste debate. I have largely concentrated on the issues of transporting nuclear waste across this Nation's highways and rail system. Over and over I have stressed that there are very real safety issues that must be addressed and resolved before we as legislators mandate a life-threatening policy on the American people who live in our districts.

To further illustrate my point, Mr. Speaker, I would like to share a recent mishap. On May 22 of this year an unexpected pressure buildup forced the top off a large metal shipping container at the U.S. DOE's Fernald site near Cincinnati, OH. The container held five 55-gallon drums of radioactive waste. This happened to a container that was a stationary container, not in the transport arena. If these caps are this unsafe, how can we pass a bill that would endanger the lives of every citizen in this country? I urge Members not to waste their vote on H.R. 1270.

### NO JUSTICE OR FAIRNESS IN THE REPUBLICAN TAX BILL

(Mr. STRICKLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, the Scripture tells us or asks us, "What then is required of us but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God?"

Mr. Speaker, there is very little justice in the Republican tax plan that is going to be presented to this House. According to the Treasury Department, the vast majority of the tax cuts in the Republican bill would go to the wealthiest of Americans. Specifically, the Treasury Department information tells us that two-thirds of the Republican tax cuts would benefit families with incomes of over \$100,000 per year. The richest 1 percent would receive an average tax break of over \$12,000. Not many of my constituents earn \$100,000 a year. There is no justice, no fairness, in the Republican tax bill. We need tax relief for America's working families.

### SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING FOR FEDERAL TRIO PROGRAMS

(Mr. FORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I extend my prayers to Dr. Shabazz in her recovery in New York.

Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise because yesterday the Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, Training, and Life-long Learning of the Committee on Education and the Workforce held a hearing on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

For over 30 years this act has provided postsecondary education opportunities for millions of Americans. This is a shining example of providing national leadership and resources to help educate all Americans. In the hearing yesterday they reviewed Federal TRIO programs. TRIO provides academic counseling and outreach to students from families who earn less than \$25,000 a year. It helps students who would not otherwise receive postsecondary education by giving them a chance and giving them an opportunity.

TRIO, Mr. Speaker, is making a difference. A 1993 study by the Department of Education found that TRIO is extremely effective at counseling young people in their elementary and secondary school years, for it is based on the Jeffersonian principle that education should be provided to those who have an ability to learn and not just an ability to pay.

Recently released results of the Third International Math and Science Study found that American third and fourth graders, Mr. Speaker, rank highest in math and science worldwide. Let us give TRIO a chance. Refund it, and allow us the opportunity to train those eighth-graders when their scores dropped.

### A WARNING TO AMERICANS: THE PRESIDENT HAS BROKEN HIS WORD

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)